

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17380 301918Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W
-----011207 301922Z /50

P R 301800Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5115
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17380

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLO, XF, UR
SUBJECT: GROMYKO AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM
EXCHANGE SPEECHES

SUMMARY: GROMYKO-KHADDAM EXCHANGE OF LUCHEON SPEECHES
REVEALS FIRST OFFICIAL SOVIET STATEMENT ON SADAT'S RECENT
POLICY INITIATIVES. NEITHER FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONS
TRIPOLI MEETING OF REJECTION STATES, AN EVENT WHICH MAY BE
GIVING SOVIET POLICY MAKERS SOME LAST MINUTE QUALMS. END
SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17380 301918Z

1. NOV. 30 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT ON FIRST ROUND OF
TALKS BETWEEN GROMYKO AND SYRIAN FON. MIN. KHADDAM
AND ON EXCHANGE OF NOV. 29 LUCHEON SPEECHES. TALKS
ARE DESCRIBED AS TALKING PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF
"MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" AND AS INVOLVING A "THOROUGH
EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING A

MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AND BILATERAL COOPERATION.

2. ASSUME DEPT. HAS TASS REPORT ITSELF. EMBASSY SEES SIGNIFICANCE IN FOLLOWING POINTS OF GROMYKO'S SPEECH:

-- GROMYKO' CRITICAL REMARKS ON SADAT'S RECENT POLICY INITIATIVES REPRESENT FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ANY SOVIET OFFICIAL SINCE SADAT'S DECISION TO GO TO JERUSALEM;

-- AS SUCH, THE LINE OF HIS CRITICISM IS NOT UNUSUAL AND WAS FORESHADOWED BY SOVIET MEDIA MATERIAL AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THE RELATIVE RESTRAINT WHICH GROMYKO SHOWED. HE DID NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, NAME SADAT, EGYPT, "THE IMPERIALISTS", OR THE U.S. IN HIS REMARKS. HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION EITHER THE CAIRO OR THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCES NOR DID HE MENTION THE PLO. HE EMPHASIZED THE ONGOING NATURE OF SOVIET CONSULTATIONS WITH REGARD TO GENEVA AND HE RESERVED JUDGMENT WITH REGARD TO "FINAL CONCLUSIONS" ON FATE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE;

-- ON A MORE NEGATIVE NOTE, HE DID STATE THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS IN A MORE DIFFICULT POSITION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17380 301918Z

THAN IT HAD BEEN EARLIER AND HE DID WARN OF THE "SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY" BORNE BY "THOSE" EITHER NEAR (READ EGYPT AND ISRAEL) OR FAR (READ THE U.S.) FROM THE M.E.E. WHO UNDERTAKE STEPS WHICH CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. KHADDAM'S REPORTED REMARKS WERE SOMEWHAT LESS RESTRAINED ALTHOUGH HE ALSO AVOIDED NAMING THE OBVIOUS TARGETS OF HIS CRITICISM AND HE ALSO RESERVED FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN GENERAL KHADDAM'S EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE TO AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS HIS CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO "ATTEMPT TO SPOIL SOVIET-ARAB RELATIONS" SEEMED TO GO BEYOND THE NEEDS OF THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION. WHETHER THIS REFLECTS AN EXAMPLE OF SYRIAN FLATTERY, A PERCEIVED NEED BY KHADDAM TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS OWN CRITICS THE STRENGTH OF SOVIET-SYRIAN POLITICAL RELATIONS, OR AN ACHIEVEMENT OF SOME TANGIBLE INCREASE IN SOVIET ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS NOT YET KNOWN. WE DO NOTE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE "NORMAL" DESCRIPTION OF THE TALKS THEMSELVES (PARA 1) AND THE

FULSOME CONTENT OF KHADDAM'S SPEECH. SOME WESTERN
DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HERE HAVE SPECULATED THAT THIS
INDICATES THE TALKS DID NOT GO NOV. 30
ENTIRELY SMOOTHLY.

4. NEXT ON THE AGENDA IS KHADDAM'S MEETING WITH
BREZHNEV. KHADDAM TOLD THE ARAB AMBASSADORS ON
NOV. 29 (AS GROMYKO HAD SAID AT LUNCH) THAT THE SOVIETS SAID
THIS MEETING WOULD BE "VERY IMPORTANT" BUT HE DID NOT REVEAL
OR INDICATE THAT HE HAD ANY FURTHER INSIGHT. THE ARAB AMBASSA-
DORS WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE SYRIANS HAD
FORMED THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS
PLANNED TO "DO MORE" FOR THE PLO. WHAT THIS MIGHT
MEAN WAS ALSO NOT SPELLED OUT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 17380 301918Z

TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW17380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770444-0238
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977114/aaaaacrs.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eca73816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 522233
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GROMYKO AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM EXCHANGE SPEECHES SUMMARY: GROMYKO-KHADDAM EXCHANGE OF LUCHEON SPEE
TAGS: PGOV, XF, UR, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eca73816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009